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Bangalore Mirror

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SAVE GREEN

Citizens won't step back in efforts to stopping axing of trees in Cantonment Railway Colony premises, now approach Minister

PAGE 2

AD SPACE

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited decides to introduce advertising space within select metro stations along the Purple and Green Lines

PAGE 4

Defunct RO unit that has not been fixed though it is peak of summer, broken wheelchair with makeshift 'plastic' footrest — facilities at ESI Hospital in Indiranagar present sorry picture of public healthcare

NO CURE FOR SUCH ILLS

Patients have no option but to keep patience as even medical superintendent's requests yet to be heard

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Haseena was admitted to the Employees State Insurance (ESI) Hospital, Indiranagar, a week ago. She was admitted to Ward No. 5 on the second floor. When she was alone at the hospital and ran out of drinking water, she came to know of a bitter reality. With officials showing no interest in repairing the defunct RO plant, there was no water on the second floor. Like all the other patients, she too had to walk all the way to the ground floor to get drinking water.

Hundreds of employees covered under the ESI scheme and their dependents visit the ESI Hospital at Indiranagar every day for treatment. And what hits them the most, on top of the illness, is the utter lack of basic amenities at the hospital.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

A woman walks to the ground floor to fetch water as the RO unit on the second floor where the women's ward is has been dysfunctional for months

"I have been struggling a lot due to lack of drinking water on the second floor. I have to go all the way to the ground floor to fetch drinking water

—Haseena, patient at ESI Hospital

Net loss

Cybercrime sees 39% dip in city, but elderly and IT hubs remain prime targets

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru has recorded a 39% decline in cybercrime cases in the first quarter of 2025 compared to the same period last year. However, despite the drop, senior citizens and professionals in IT hubs remain the most affected, with Whitefield division continuing to top the charts in reported cases.

City Police Commissioner B Dayananda revealed this during a press conference on Tuesday. "We've observed a significant drop in cybercrime cases this year. To put it in perspective, 3,788 cases were reported in the first three months of 2023, which rose to 4,679 in the same period in 2024. But in 2025, up to March, we've seen a decline to 2,838 cases and that's a welcome relief," the Commissioner said.

But the numbers also show where the need to focus is necessary, that is protecting senior citizens and the digital workforce.

Cybercrime currently accounts for 30% of the total crime in Karnataka, with Bengaluru alone contributing to 40% of these cases. The city's high digital footprint, coupled with a growing online population, makes it a hotspot for cyber frauds and scams.

In 2024, Bengaluru reported 17,560 cybercrime cases, slightly lower than the 17,632 cases in 2023 but the financial losses jumped alarmingly. Losses escalated from ₹673.92 crore in 2023 to a staggering ₹1,998.48 crore in 2024. Senior citizens were particularly hard hit, losing ₹182.8 crore last year, up from ₹46.7 crore

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Legal lens

As the political momentum around the Uniform Civil Code gathers pace once again, with the recent Uttarakhand legislation in the news, BIC is organising a session revisiting the debate from a constitutional, feminist, and social justice lens. **Where: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur; When: May 21, 6.30 pm**

02 Wizarding wonders

MINISO India is organising the second chapter of the exclusive Harry Potter pop-up studio, bringing the spellbinding charm of the wizarding world to life with over 300 officially licensed Harry Potter products available exclusively. **Where: Nexus Mall, Koramangala; When: May 1 to June 3**

03 Books galore

LOCKTHEBOX, a book fest is being organised, presenting thousands of books– new and pre-loved, bestselling and hidden gems. **Where: Garuda Mall, Ashok Nagar; When: May 8 to 18, 11 am**

04 Gender identity

ECTA and Tritiyo Sutra Production, in collaboration with ENAD Bengaluru, are presenting Shikhandi, which powerfully explores the concept of gender identity and vengeance, revealing the deep-rooted gender politics at play in Mahabharata. **Where: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield; When: May 31, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm**

05 Pun intended

After the success of 'Bas Kar Bassi', Anubhav Bassi is coming back to perform live, bringing a whole new set of funny stories and jokes to entertain the audience. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: May 30, 7.30 pm**

Axe alarm: Citizens knock Minister's door

Group writes to Eshwar Khandre urging him to cancel plan to build new commercial complex at Cantonment Railway Colony, set up public consultation

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A group of citizens, concerned over the proposal to cut more than 350 trees at the Cantonment Railway Colony premises, have now approached the Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre. Citizens have requested the Minister to reject the development project and instead demand a proposal for sustainable designs that preserve heritage trees at risk of being felled.

"In the letter, we have urged the Minister to deny permission for the removal of the trees. Instead, let there be a public consultation to figure out alternative sustainable project designs and locations that can lead to preservation of the heritage trees that are slated to be removed," said a citizen from the Cantonment area. The citizen emphasised the need for comprehensive urban and environmental planning in Bengaluru.

Residents said that they were perturbed after coming across a public notice published by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on April 25 regarding the removal of 368 trees for a 'commercial development project' at Bangalore Cantonment Railway Colony campus.

Locals said that they would also appreciate an on-site meeting with the Forest Minister to discuss the heritage value of the place and the implications of cutting these trees.

In the letter to Forest Minister Khandre, residents expressed deep anguish and shock at 368 trees being marked for cutting. "In recent times, other trees too have been cut around the Cantonment Railway Station. These are heritage trees, living monuments that connect us to our natural and cultural history. These trees are not only biologically significant but also hold immense historical, ecological, and community value," residents said in the letter, adding that preserving them is essential for maintaining biodiversity and ensuring a healthy environment for future generations.

Notably, Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) recently visited the campus and inspected the 368 trees mentioned in the public notice. Following the inspection, BMC submitted a report to BBMP, seeking justification for the proposal to cut 84 out of the 368 trees at the campus.

Locals said that they would also appreciate an on-site meeting with the Forest Minister to discuss the heritage value of the place and the implications of cutting these trees

The 84 trees in question have been categorised as 'heritage' trees by BMC members based on the frameworks of the National Biodiversity Authority, the Wildlife Protection Act, and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The resident group that approached the Minister also said that the area already has three major railway infrastructure services converging, along with last-mile services. There are three arterial roads around the green patch, and residents fear that a commercial complex will severely accelerate local environmental degradation. "There is already a traffic bottleneck, pollution, noise, water issues, health issues, thermal overload, and congestion. Hence, we are not in favour of cutting even a single tree. Whilst urban development and infrastructure expansion are important, we cannot afford commercial complexes at the cost of lung space, public health, and livability," said another resident.

BDA holds meeting with Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout allottees

In line with recommendations from the Real Estate Regulatory Authority, a meeting was held on Tuesday with the allottees of sites in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout to address concerns regarding basic infrastructure. Officials from the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) briefed the attendees on the current status of development in the layout.

During the meeting, BDA officials stated that essential infrastructure such as roads, electricity, underground drainage, drinking water supply, sewage treatment plants (STP), electric substations, parks, and other civic amenities have already been provided. They noted that approximately 90% of the work in the layout has been completed, and assured that steps are being taken to finish the remaining 10%.

Officials state that essential infrastructure and amenities have been provided at the Layout

A BDA official said that the officials also addressed issues related to the acquisition of 550 acres of land, scattered across various parts of the layout. Landowners had filed petitions in the High Court, which granted the authority a three-month period to resolve the matter. "Following the court's directive, representations from landowners were reviewed and subsequently rejected by the BDA, citing the necessity of the land for maintaining infrastructure continuity and planned development. The land acquisition process is still underway," the official said.

It was further clarified that the delay in the completion of infrastructure was due to the phased nature of land acquisition, and additional time would be needed to complete the remaining work. Officials expressed hope that the allottees now have a clearer understanding of the challenges faced in the implementation process. — BMB

Rain check Brigade road flooded after the evening rain, slowing traffic movement near St Patrick's Church on Tuesday evening in Bengaluru

B'luru CBSE results: Girls lead, fewer top scorers

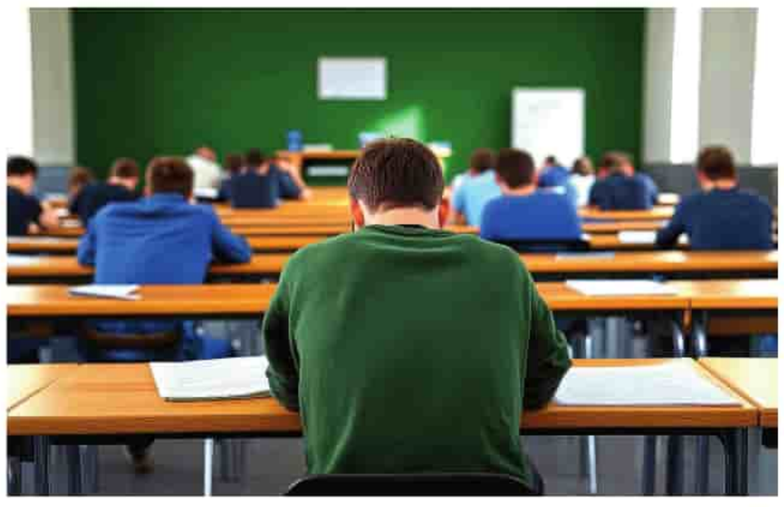
Bengaluru students shine in CBSE Class 10 and 12 board exams, the results of which were announced on Tuesday. While the overall pass percentage saw a slight increase from last year, the number of high scorers has dipped. Girls continued to outperform boys, and transgender students showed remarkable improvement in results this year.

Marginal rise in pass percentage

The results for Class 10 and 12 reflect a marginal rise in the overall pass percentages for both. The pass percentage for Class 10 increased slightly to 93.66%, up from 93.60% the previous year, while Class 12 recorded an improved pass rate of 88.39%, compared to 87.98% in 2024. CBSE officials credited this improvement to better exam preparation support for students and the introduction of 50% competency-based questions in the 2025 examinations.

Girls continue to lead

Girls continued to outperform boys in both Class 10 and 12 examinations, maintaining a consistent lead. In Class 12, the gap stood at 5.94 percentage points, while in Class 10, girls led by 2.37 percentage points. A significant



improvement was also seen among transgender students. The pass percentage for transgender candidates in Class 12 rose sharply to 100%, up from 50% the previous year. In Class 10, their pass rate increased to 95%, compared to 91.30% last year. However, the CBSE did not reveal the exact number of transgender students who appeared for the exams.

Fewer high scorers this year

Despite an increase in overall pass percentages, the number of high scorers declined in both Class 10 and 12. In Class 12, 1,11,544 students scored above 90%, down from 1.16 lakh last year, while 24,867 students secured above 95%, showing a slight rise from 24,068. Among children with special needs (CSWN), 290 scored over 90%, and 55 surpassed the 95% mark. In Class 10, the number of students scoring above 90% dropped to 1.99 lakh from 2.12 lakh last year, and those scoring above 95% declined to 45,516 from 47,000. Within the CSWN category, 411 students scored above 90%, and 66 achieved more than 95%.

No merit lists or divisions

Continuing its policy aimed at discouraging unhealthy competition among students, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) did not release any merit lists or division rankings this year. Instead, only the top 0.1% of scorers in each subject will be awarded merit certificates, which will be made available through DigiLocker, according to CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj. **BMB**

BM Education

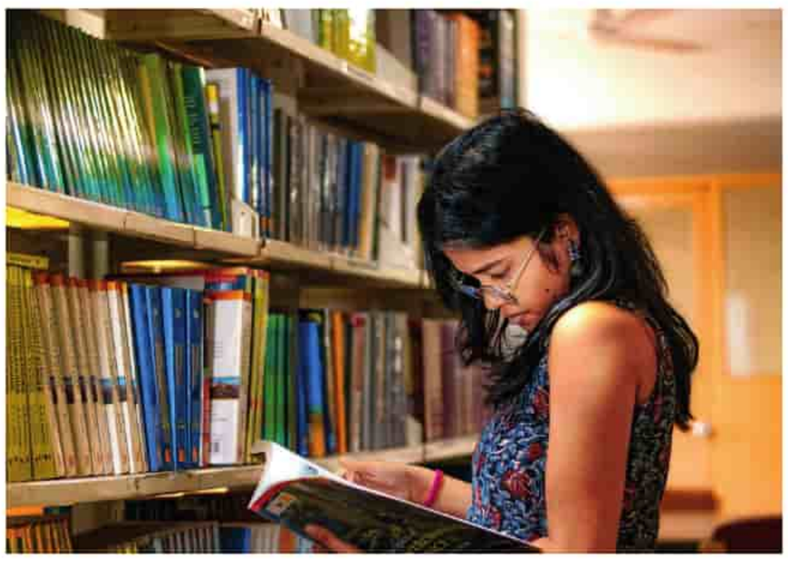
Climate ready: The BBMP Climate Action Cell (CAC) on Tuesday announced the launch of the Bengaluru Climate Action Club programme to engage educational institutions in the city in meaningful climate action across the city

India's global influence in higher education continues to rise

India's higher education sector is undergoing a profound transformation, with statistical evidence pointing toward consistent and inclusive growth across the country. From a modest start in 1947, when the nation had only 17 universities and 636 colleges catering to just 2.38 lakh students, India now boasts a vibrant academic landscape. According to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22, the country has 1,168 universities, 45,473 colleges, and 12,002 stand-alone institutions. State Public Universities (SPUs), in particular, have emerged as pivotal players, accounting for 81% of student enrollment and catering to over 3.25 crore students.

According to education experts, this remarkable expansion is reflected in India's global academic standing as well. Over the past decade, the country witnessed a staggering 318% increase in its representation in international higher education rankings—the highest among G20 nations. The release of NITI Aayog's recent report, Expanding Quality Higher Education through States and State Public Universities, underscores the vital role SPUs play in democratising education, especially in underserved and remote regions.

"India's Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) surged from a mere 0.4% in 1950-51 to 28.4% in 2021-22—a 71-fold increase. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to take this further, targeting a GER of 50% by 2035. Enrollment across disadvantaged groups has also seen commendable growth. Between 2011 and 2022, enrollment among OBCs rose by 80.9%, SCs by 76.3%, and STs by 106.8%. Muslim student enrollment increased by 60.6%, while other minorities saw a 53.2% rise. Enrollment of students with disabilities in SPUs grew by 6.6% over the same period",said an education department official.



SPUs' teaching departments and constituent units saw a rise in enrollment from 24.5 lakh in 2011-12 to nearly 29.8 lakh in 2021-22, marking a 21.8% decadal increase. Meanwhile, State Private Universities experienced explosive growth, with enrollment skyrocketing by 497%—from 2.7 lakh in 2011-12 to 16.2 lakh in 2021-22. Central Universities reported a more modest growth of 26.4% over the same period.

Gender inclusivity has also improved significantly. India's Gender Parity Index (GPI) in higher education rose from 0.87 in 2011-12 to 1.01 in 2021-22, indicating that female enrollment now slightly exceeds that of males—an encouraging step toward gender-balanced education, according to the data from the education ministry.

In terms of faculty, India has around 16 lakh teachers in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Lecturers and Assistant Professors form the largest share at 68%, followed by Associate Professors (10%), Professors (9.5%), and other categories such as Demonstrators, Temporary, and Visiting Faculty.

India's global academic impact is further highlighted by its rising contribution to research. The country's share in global research publications grew from 3.5% in 2017 to 5.2% in 2024. According to the NIRF 2024 rankings, the IITs collectively account for 24% of the total publications, followed closely by Private Deemed Universities, which contribute 23.5%.

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BMRCL eyes ₹35 crore from new metro advertising spaces

To boost non-fare revenue, BMRCL invites tenders for ad space across metro stations-targeting walls, lifts, staircases, and indoor areas citywide

With rising metro footfall, the initiative aims to boost BMRCL revenue and offer brands a prime advertising platform

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In an effort to boost revenue, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has decided to introduce advertising space within select metro stations along the Purple and Green Lines. This move follows the recent hike in metro fares aimed at increasing earnings.

An official said, "BMRCL has invited tenders from eligible agencies for the initiative. Advertising spaces will be made available at stations on the Purple Line from Challaghatta to Whitefield and on the Green Line from Madavara to Silk Institute. Interchange stations will be allocated 6,000 square meters for advertisements, while other stations will have 3,000 square meters of space. Some stations will also offer additional advertising areas. Currently, 'Namma Metro' generates most of its revenue through ticket sales. Other minor sources of income include vending machines, small retail outlets, parking, and station naming rights. To further enhance non-fare revenue, advertisements will now be displayed on station staircases, lifts, escalators, walls, and other indoor areas."

Annual revenue of ₹30-₹35 crore expected

BMRCL officials estimate that indoor advertising could generate an annual revenue of ₹30-₹35 crore. The corporation previously earned ₹9.89 crore from advertisements in 2016-17 and ₹3.9 crore in 2018-19. However, revenue from this source dropped after a Karnataka High Court order in 2019 banned advertising hoardings across Bengaluru, significantly impacting BMRCL's earnings. Before the ban, metro pillars were used for advertising, generating substantial income for the corporation.

> **"BMRCL has invited tenders from eligible agencies for the initiative. Advertising spaces will be made available at stations on the Purple and Green Lines**
> – BMRCL Official

Experts have recommended that BMRCL focus on increasing non-fare revenue rather than imposing fare hikes, which would burden passengers. By strengthening alternative income sources, the need for frequent ticket price revisions can be minimised.

Gowdanapalya's black spot gets a bright makeover

Over 150 volunteers unite to clean and beautify a neglected stretch once choked with garbage, restoring civic pride to the neighbourhood

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The 200-metre stretch between Kumaraswamy Layout and Padmanabhanagar wards was one of the most neglected areas in the two respective wards in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits. The stretch was like a no man' land as people from both the wards used to dump garbage as per their convenience.

In a remarkable display of civic responsibility and community spirit, over 150 dedicated volunteers from Youth for Parivarthan, with the active support of the BBMP and Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited, came together to clean and beautify a massive black spot at Gowdanapalya, between Kumaraswamy Layout and Padmanabhanagar. The site, which had long been an unofficial garbage dumping yard and occupied nearly half the road, posed a significant inconvenience and health hazard to local residents. Thanks to the concerted efforts of the BBMP's solid waste management team and the passionate volunteers of Youth for Parivarthan, the area received a complete facelift over the span of 8 hours.

> **The wall was then artistically transformed with beautiful mandala designs and portraits of prominent national figures, breathing new life into the space**

Volunteers began by removing posters, scrubbing and cleaning the wall, followed by applying fresh coats of paint. The wall was then artistically transformed with beautiful mandala designs and portraits of prominent national figures, breathing new life into the space and sending a strong message against public littering.

One of the volunteers beautifying the black spot

"The BBMP authorities have approached us to beautify the black spot. People used to dump garbage on this stretch and it was tough for the BBMP workers to keep the place clean. Now, we have beautified the black spot," said Amith Amarnath, founder and president of Youth for Parivarthan.

The transformation at Gowdanapalya stands as a testament to what collective effort and youth participation can achieve in building a cleaner, more beautiful Bengaluru.

Local residents appreciated the transformation and expressed hope that the change will inspire greater community cooperation in maintaining public spaces.

Rakshitha GS, a student volunteer from KR Puram, says that she is very happy to be part of the team. "I have been participating in beautifying the black spots during the last six months and I will continue to participate in such programmes in future," said Rakshitha.

Rajendra HF, supervisor BBMP marshals, said they have been working to raise public awareness about the importance of handing over household waste to pourakarmikas. "We are maintaining a strict vigil along the stretch to prevent people from dumping garbage. Residents have been advised to lodge complaints through the BBMP Sahaya app if pourakarmikas fail to collect garbage from their doorsteps," he said.

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◎ Road encroachment

BTM Layout

An illegal construction on 13th Main, 10th Cross, BTM 2nd Stage has encroached upon a quarter of the road, posing a serious risk to two-wheeler riders.

◎ Neglected nuisance

Austin Town

Garbage is being burnt daily opposite a statue, with the practice continuing unchecked despite multiple complaints from the public

◎ Illegal display

Kottigepalya

Illegal banners have been put up Kottigepalya 2nd Stage, Nagarabhavi, leading to visual clutter and obstructing public space

Contracts, crores, chaos: BBMP audit reveals all

Audit of BBMP's 2022-23 accounts exposes ₹2,291 crore in financial irregularities, with ₹1,820 crore under scrutiny and it also reveals ₹4,116 crore in long-pending recoveries

BM INVESTIGATES

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A recent audit report has exposed large-scale financial irregularities in the 2022-23 accounts of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), revealing the misuse of ₹2,291.74 crore.

The 367-page audit report details mismanagement across key departments, including general administration, public works, health, revenue, and education. Of the total misappropriation, ₹1,820.61 crore has been flagged for further scrutiny, while ₹471.12 crore is recommended for recovery from officials and contractors. The report highlights unauthorised payments, negligence by officials and staff, financial losses, and other discrepancies, providing a detailed breakdown of the lapses.

The report stated, "Despite BBMP facing financial distress, contractors handling civic works have not been paid, leading to massive pending bills. The revenue collected from property tax and other sources barely covers daily administrative expenses. While BBMP presents an annual budget exceeding ₹11,000 crore, the audit report indicates that nearly 10% of this amount is lost to corruption."

Lapses in financial management

The report points out serious shortcomings in financial record-keeping, stating that BBMP has failed to maintain its accounts as per Section 149 of the Karnataka Municipal Corporations (KMC) Act, 1976. Discrepancies have arisen due to a lack of synchronisation between income, expenditure, payment records, and bank transactions. The audit also highlights a lack of internal financial control, payment procedure violations, and public fund collection transparency issues. The audit report reveals that BBMP has incurred expenses beyond April 1 without obtaining proper budgetary approval, making the expenditure illegal. There is also a significant gap between the expected and actual revenue. BBMP continues to launch new projects without addressing pending works or clearing outstanding contractor payments, leading to increased financial burdens.

BBMP keeps launching new projects without completing pending works or settling dues to contractors, further straining its finances

Unauthorised payment of ₹56.44 crore

Violations of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (KTPP) Act, 1999, and its rules of 2000 have resulted in an illegal payment of ₹56.44 crore to contractors in the general administration, public works, and health departments. The audit found several irregularities, including the extension of expired contracts without fresh tenders, direct award of work orders without competitive bidding, and material purchases without tendering processes.

₹4,116.39 crore pending recovery

The audit report also highlights that BBMP has failed to take action on pending recoveries flagged in annual audit reports from 1964-65 to 2022-23. As a result, ₹13,961.92 crore remains unaccounted for, with ₹4,116.39 crore still pending recovery. The report warns that failure to act on these recoveries in a timely manner will make it difficult to retrieve funds from retired or deceased officials, further worsening BBMP's financial losses. It recommends stringent measures to recover the dues.

₹816 cr misappropriation in public works

A significant portion of the financial irregularities—₹816.87 crore—has been reported in the public works department. The audit found that instead of awarding contracts to the lowest bidder (L1) as per e-procurement norms, BBMP approved work orders for higher-priced (L2) bidders, violating financial guidelines. Bills were paid despite irregularities in the tendering process, leading to an objectionable expenditure of ₹23.59 crore. The audit report calls for immediate corrective action to recover lost funds.

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Sonu Nigam goes to HC to nullify plaint

Singer Sonu Nigam has petitioned the Karnataka High Court to dismiss an FIR lodged against him over alleged controversial remarks during a Bengaluru concert, following demands from audience members to perform Kannada songs.

On Tuesday (May 13), a vacation bench led by Justice Shivashankar Amarannavar heard the case and scheduled the next hearing for May 15. The charges against Nigam include BNS Sections 351(2), 352(1), and 353, covering criminal intimidation, intentional insult, and public mischief.

The pro-Kannada group Karnataka Rakshana Vedike lodged a complaint at Avalahalli Police Station, contending that Nigam's remarks offended Kannadiga sentiments.

The complainants asserted that the singer's statements caused distress to the Kannadiga community. They argued that his comparison of a request for Kannada songs to the Pahalgam terrorist attack misrepresented Kannadigas as intolerant, contradicting their peaceful nature.

The petition seeks to nullify the complaint dated May 2, 2025 filed by respondent no 2 (Dharma Raj Ananthaiha) and the subsequent FIR dated May 3, .2025. —BMB

Fire guts oil godown

A massive fire broke out at an oil godown in Adakamaranahalli village near Nelamangala on Sunday, gutting goods worth 30 crore. The blaze is suspected to have been caused by a short circuit.

The warehouse, spread across 40,000 square feet and owned by Krishnappa—son-in-law of former minister HC Srikanthaiah, stored oil products belonging to Shell company. The fire quickly engulfed the entire godown, reducing it to ashes.

Firefighting units from Nelamangala, Peenya, Hebbal, Rajajinagar, Thanisandra, Sunkadakatte, and Yeshwanthpur rushed to the scene. More than 20 fire engines and about 60 firefighters are involved in the firefighting efforts.

Officials from the Madanayakanahalli police station visited the spot and registered a case. While initial reports point to a short circuit as the possible cause, a detailed investigation is underway to determine the exact reason behind the fire. No casualties have been reported so far.—BMB

CRIME FILES

Domestic workers caught in theft

In two separate incidents, domestic workers were arrested for stealing gold and cash from their employers' homes in Bengaluru.

In the first case, reported at Girinagar Police Station, a maid stole 48.62 grams of gold ornaments and ₹3.86 lakh in cash, valued at ₹8.47 lakh, from a house in Banashankari 3rd Phase. Police recovered the stolen items from her house and a nearby jewellery shop.

In the second case under the HAL Police Station, a maid was arrested for house robbery after allegedly using a duplicate key to steal gold while the family was away. 128 grams of gold jewellery, worth ₹12 lakh, was found hidden in the trunk of her two-wheeler.

Both accused have been remanded to judicial custody. —BMB

Driver arrested for stealing ₹1.5 crore

A car driver was arrested by Vyalikaval Police for allegedly stealing ₹1.51 crore in cash entrusted to him for tax payment by his employer, a chartered accountant based in Kodandaraipura. The complaint was filed on May 6, after the driver failed to deposit the money in the car as instructed and went missing.

The accused has been identified as Rajesh (45). According to police, instead of keeping the amount in the vehicle, the driver hid the cash in his two-wheeler and fled. Based on the investigation, a notice was issued to the accused, who appeared before police on May 9. During questioning, he confessed to the theft and revealed that the stolen cash was kept at his residence near the TTD temple.

Police later recovered ₹1.4 crore in cash and a two-wheeler used in the crime. The case has been successfully solved by the Vyalikaval Police. —BMB

Constable post candidates demand relaxation of age limit

At 25 years for general category, Karnataka has one of the lowest age limits among other states

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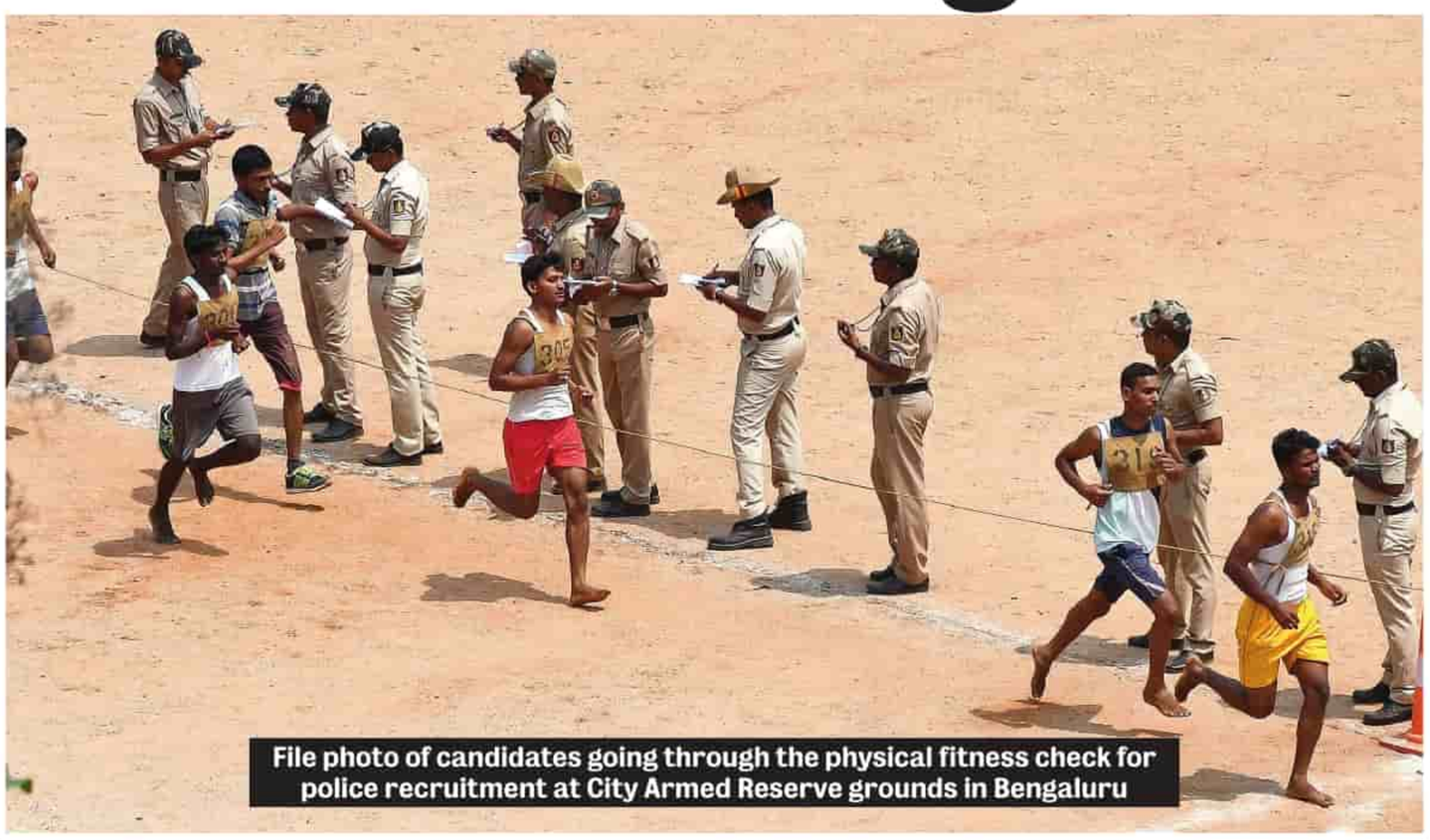

File photo of candidates going through the physical fitness check for police recruitment at City Armed Reserve grounds in Bengaluru

For several years, aspirants have been demanding an increase in the age limit for police constable recruitment in Karnataka. However, successive governments have failed to act on this demand, leading to frustration among thousands of candidates. Compared to other states, Karnataka has one of the lowest age limits for constable recruitment. While most states allow general category candidates up to 28–33 years and SC/ST/OBC candidates up to 32–38 years, Karnataka's limit remains at 25 years for the general category and 27 years for reserved categories. This has strengthened the demand for an age limit revision.

Unfulfilled promises by government

Despite multiple assurances from political leaders, there has been no official move to amend the age criteria. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, while in the opposition, had supported the demand and even wrote to then CM Basavaraj Bommai in 2020 urging a revision. He reiterated this commitment in a tweet posted in September 2024. Deputy CM DK Shivakumar also addressed the issue by writing to Home Minister G Parameshwara on March 16, 2024, requesting appropriate action. Yet, the government has not issued any formal notification, leaving aspirants in a state of uncertainty. Thousands of youth, many of whom quit private sector jobs to focus on police recruitment preparations, say they are now stuck in limbo. "Siddaramaiah supported us when he was in the opposition. Even after five months of being in power and giving reassurances, there's no progress. The government should immediately act and increase the age limit," said Lohith, a police constable aspirant.

Ashok Kumar, another candidate, echoed the sentiment. "When in opposition, leaders made promises. Now that they are in power, they have gone silent. We deserve a fair chance. The government must act now."

Lowest in Karnataka

Karnataka's age criteria are among the most stringent in the country. In Madhya Pradesh, general category candidates can apply up to the age of 33, and SC/ST/OBC candidates up to 38. Maharashtra and Telangana permit applications up to 31 and 33 years, while states like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Kerala have limits ranging from 29 to 34 years. Tamil Nadu allows up to 28 years for general candidates and 33 for reserved groups. Andhra Pradesh sets the limit at 27 and 33 years, respectively.

> **"Siddaramaiah wrote a letter supporting this demand when he was in the opposition. Even after five months since his latest assurance, there has been no progress**
> – Lohith, a police constable aspirant

PwD promotion: Functional capacity over certification

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that assessing candidates with disabilities should include both medical certification and functional capability evaluation, rather than relying solely on medical documentation. This judgment came from a division bench of Chief Justice N V Anjaria and Justice K V Aravind in an appeal filed by Anil Kumar S B, challenging his disqualification for the post of Assistant Accounts Officer (AAO) under the PwD category at BESCOM.

The court emphasized the importance of functional assessment, noting that Kumar's disability certificate stated he could perform normal work with both hands, despite limitations. It stressed that if no other eligible PwD candidates are available, relaxation in eligibility norms can be considered.

Kumar, who has a 75% locomotor disability affecting both legs and arms, was working as an Assistant in BESCOM since 2015 under the PwD quota. He applied for the AAO position in 2016 but was excluded from the selection list despite taking the exam. He argued that the AAO role was similar to his current duties and also the next promotional step, making him eligible for direct recruitment under the General Merit PwD quota.

The respondents claimed the recruitment rules allowed only single-arm disabilities and had no provision for relaxation. The court rejected this, stating Kumar was already eligible for promotion to AAO without additional requirements, and it was illogical to disqualify him for direct recruitment. Setting aside the single judge's earlier dismissal, the court ruled in Kumar's favor and directed his appointment as AAO with notional seniority as per the 2016 notification. — BMB

Karnataka fails to fix sagging lines, elephants die

Delayed action and poor power line maintenance continue to put elephants at grave risk, prompting urgent calls for accountability and systemic reform

Garima Prasher
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In 2023-2024, Karnataka reported 13 elephant deaths due to electrocution. Of these, 10 were caused by illegal electric fencing and three by sagging power lines. In the following year, 2024-2025, the toll stood at 12, with five deaths linked to illegal electric fences, one to a solar fence, and six to sagging power lines.

In one of the more recent incidents, a 35-year-old elephant in Chikkamagaluru district was electrocuted in April this year after coming into contact with low-hanging transmission lines. The data, compiled by the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD), highlights the growing threat posed by poorly maintained power infrastructure, especially in forest-adjacent regions.

Wildlife experts point out that maintaining proper clearance of electric lines is primarily the responsibility of the electricity board and power supply companies. According to Ramesh Belagere, a wildlife researcher at the Foundation of Ecology and Education Development, the Karnataka High Court has directed the forest department to form area-specific investigating committees. These committees are tasked with liaising with the electricity board to ensure prompt action on sagging lines.

> **"As per the High Court's recent order on the issue, KFD is supposed to form area-wise investigating committees. These committees should approach the electricity board to resolve the issue of sagging power lines**
> – Ramesh Belagere, a wildlife researcher

"In mountain and hilly regions, power lines tend to sag more easily after rains. It is the responsibility of electricity supply companies to ensure timely repairs, especially in these vulnerable terrains," said Belagere. National Board for Wildlife guidelines mandate a minimum clearance height of 20 feet in flat terrain and 30 feet in hilly areas for overhead lines. However, poor infrastructure and lack of maintenance often lead to power lines hanging dangerously low, resulting in fatal incidents involving elephants.

Wildlife experts demand accountability for elephant deaths by power lines

Conservationists argue that accountability needs to be enforced. They have called for disciplinary action against officials from electricity supply companies and the forest department in areas where elephant deaths occur due to negligence. While offenders using illegal electric fencing can be prosecuted under Section 9 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, elephant deaths from sagging power lines often go unpunished.

"How many electricity boards or forest officials have been held responsible so far? The Chief Wildlife Warden must review overhead electric lines regularly, and any future deaths due to negligence should result in strict action," said a conservationist. Experts also stress the importance of on-foot patrolling. They say regular, round-the-clock patrols, especially in coordination with electricity departments, are essential to identifying high-risk zones before they become death traps for wildlife.

"No technology can substitute for proactive patrolling. Although night patrols have begun in some areas, they need to be more rigorous and consistently implemented," Belagere added. Efforts to fix the issue are underway. After the electrocution of a tusker at a coffee estate in Chikkamagaluru in August last year, KFD identified around 500 low-lying electric poles in the region and requested their replacement with taller ones.

"Last year, 140 poles were replaced. In the first quarter of this year, 80 have already been changed, and another 80 are scheduled for the second quarter. All 500 poles will be replaced in the coming year, subject to funding," said Ramesh Babu, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Chikkamagaluru taluk.

INBRIEF

Flag insult causes furore

A case has been registered at Tilak Nagar Police Station against BJP MLA CK Ramamurthy and Krishnappa, President of the Kannada Abhimani Sangha, for allegedly insulting the national flag during a sweet distribution programme on May 8.

The programme organised by the Kannada Bhimana Sangha near the Balamata Vinayaka Subramanya Temple was attended by . Jayanagar MLA Ramamurthy, several party workers and local residents.

The video from after the sweets were distributed, shows Krishnappa and a few others wiping their hands with what appeared to be a representation of the national flag. The footage, which has since gone viral, has triggered widespread condemnation, with many demanding immediate legal action.

Based on a suo motu complaint, police registered an FIR under Section 2 of the BNS and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971. **BMB**

Man held for post against PM Modi

A 25-year-old electrician from Mangammanapalya was arrested by Bandepalya police for allegedly posting a video on social media containing provocative remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, following the launch of Operation Sindoor by the Indian Armed Forces.

The accused, identified as Nawaz, had uploaded the video on a social media account titled 'Public Servant', which quickly went viral. In the video, Nawaz is seen making inflammatory statements, including: "In the fight between India and Pakistan, why has no bomb fallen on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence? When people were living peacefully, this war-like situation was created by PM Modi. His residence should be bombed first."

The controversial clip sparked public outrage and came under the radar of law enforcement. Taking swift action, the Bandepalya police registered an FIR under relevant sections and traced Nawaz's location. **BMB**

Bus mishap injures 9

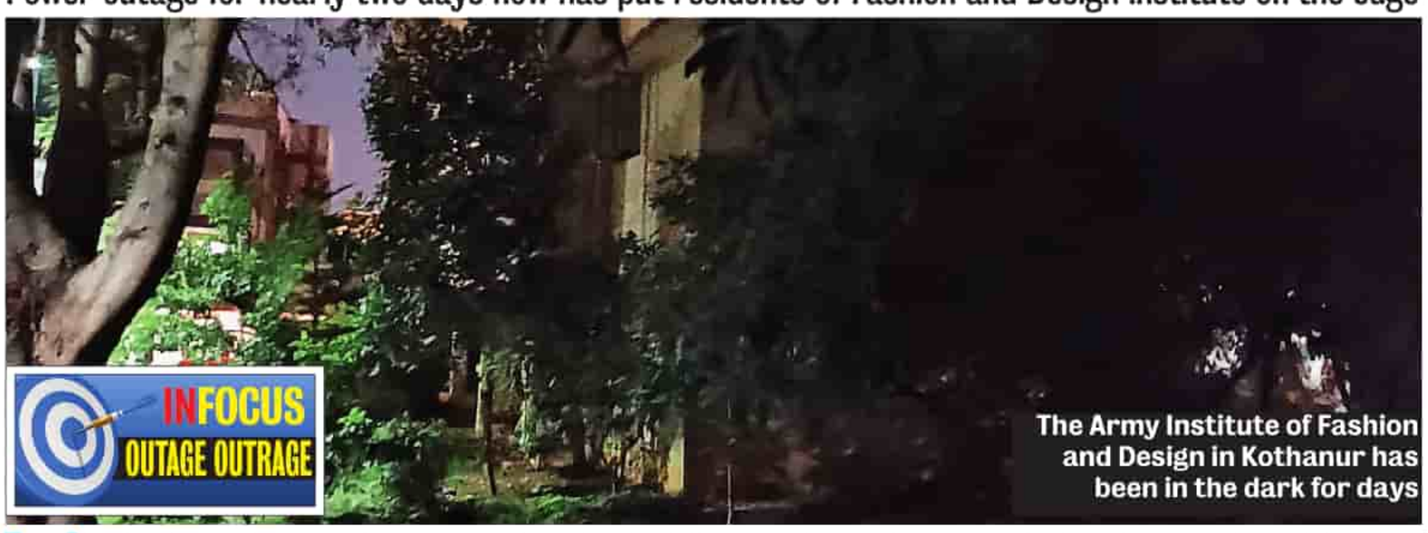
A self-accident involving a bus carrying construction workers was reported between 12.45 pm and 1 pm on Monday within Devanahalli Traffic Police limits. The mishap occurred at the first signal towards Begur, shortly after the KIAL 1st Circle.

The private bus was transporting 35 employees of a company, all of whom were engaged in construction work at the Western Crossfield Taxiway (WCT) bridge, which connects the north and south runways of Kempegowda International Airport. According to sources, the workers were heading for lunch at their accommodation, Phoenix PG, located in Kadayarappanahalli, when the bus lost control and met with an accident.

Nine individuals sustained injuries. One worker is reported to be in critical condition and has been shifted to a nearby hospital. Two others suffered major injuries. **BMB**

Lights out at Army institute campus

Power outage for nearly two days now has put residents of Fashion and Design institute on the edge



The Army Institute of Fashion and Design in Kothanur has been in the dark for days

Nearly 50 families on the campus of the Army Institute of Hotel Management and Catering and the Army Institute of Fashion and Design in Kothanur say they have been enduring a power outage for nearly two days now.

The resident-staff members of the institutions, run by the Army Welfare Education Society (AWES), allege the blackout has crossed 44 hours with only two brief one-hour power windows in that entire duration. Earlier this month, the residents experienced another 46-hour blackout.

Currently, 48 staff families are housed in three residential blocks on the campuses. These families include children, the elderly, and patients with health conditions like sleep apnea.

"The blackout started on Sunday evening, and BESCOM visited the campus on Monday morning. However, they informed that the power outage is due to damage to an underground supply line and it can be restored only by Wednesday. Our phones are not charged, and basic appliances are not functioning. Many of us have young children, elderly family members, and even patients requiring powered medical devices. We have senior citizens with medical device assistance. But even those devices are not working due to a outage," said a staff member on campus.

Residents say they are facing the heat of summer, unable to sleep, with food rotting in refrigerators and no access to the internet. They allege that the student hostels, housing over 400 students, continue to receive full generator backup, except during classroom hours, while faculty, administrative staff, and their families are left without basic electricity.

"During these blackouts, music plays from student gyms and hostels powered by generators — while our fridges remain off, our fans still, and our children sleepless. Repeated requests by staff to divert even a few hours of generator power to the residential quarters have been denied," said another resident on the campus.

Requests unheard

Many staff members say that their repeated requests to divert even 4-5 hours of generator power to the residential blocks have been denied. "We understand the need to prioritise students during academic hours. But these blackouts have happened during summer vacation, when students are on campus only during class. Meanwhile, those who keep the institution running - teaching staff, administrative officers, and non-teaching staff - are treated as an afterthought," said a faculty member.

Notably, the power outage issue is isolated to the local transformer. "This is the second power outage spanning over days in the last one month. And yet no contingency solution has been made," said a staff member.

—Garima Prasher

AROUNDTHEWORLD

Depardieu guilty of sexual assault

French movie star Gérard Depardieu 's fall from grace is now complete. Depardieu was found guilty Tuesday of sexually assaulting two women on the set of a movie in which he starred in 2021 and given an 18-month suspended prison sentence. He was also fined a total of 29,040 euros (around $32,350), and the court requested that he be registered in the national sex offender database.

The actor, 76, has been convicted of having groped a 54-year-old set dresser and a 34-year-old assistant during the filming of "Les Volets Verts" ("The Green Shutters"). The case was widely seen as a key post-#MeToo test of how French society and its film industry address allegations of sexual misconduct involving prominent figures.

Depardieu, who has denied the accusations, didn't attend the hearing in Paris. Depardieu's lawyer said that his client would appeal the decision. **AP**

Trump in Saudi

President Donald Trump in a speech in Saudi Arabia will urge Iran to take a "new and a better path" as he pushes for a new nuclear deal.

Trump, according to excerpts of the speech to be delivered at the U.S.-Saudi investment conference, will also say he wants to avoid conflict with Tehran.

"As I have shown repeatedly, I am willing to end past conflicts and forge new partnerships for a better and more stable world, even if our differences may be profound," Trump will say. Trump signed a host of economic and bilateral cooperation agreements in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday as he kicked off a four-day Middle East trip with a focus on dealmaking with a key Mideast ally while shared concerns about Iran's nuclear program and the war in Gaza dragged on in the background.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Saudi de facto ruler, warmly greeted Trump as he stepped off Air Force One at King Khalid International Airport in the Saudi capital. **AP**

US President Donald Trump speaks with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Grim tidings

7,000+ employees: Microsoft is laying off **3%** of its workforce, CNBC reported on Tuesday

AI effect? Technology giant looks to rein in costs while funneling billions of dollars into its ambitious bet on artificial intelligence

Largest layoff since 2023

The cuts will be across all levels and geographies, and are likely the largest since Microsoft laid off **10,000** employees in **2023,** according to the report, which cited a company statement.

The company let a small number of employees go in January over performance-related issues, but the latest cuts are not related to that and are focused on trimming management layers, the report said.

Total workers

The company had a total of **228,000** workers, with **126,000** employees in the US at the end of June last year, according to its annual filing with the U.S. SEC. **—Reuters**

Zelenskiy insists on talks with Putin

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Tuesday he would attend talks with Russia on the war in Ukraine this week only if Vladimir Putin is also there and goaded him by saying the Russian leader was scared to meet him face-to-face.

The Kremlin has yet to say whether Putin will take part in the talks scheduled to be held in Istanbul on Thursday, more than three years into the deadliest conflict in Europe since World War Two.

The planned talks have become the main focus of peace efforts led by U.S. President Donald Trump, who is sending senior envoys Steve Witkoff and Keith Kellogg, three sources familiar with the plans said. Trump has also offered to attend.

Zelenskiy said he wanted to negotiate an unconditional 30-day ceasefire as a step towards ending the war, and that Putin should take part in talks because "absolutely everything in Russia" depends on him. **Reuters**

Bengaluru accounts for 40% of cybercrime cases in state

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in the previous year. The trend shows that although the number of cases is stabilising, the scale and financial impact of each crime are rising. In the first three months of 2025 alone, the city logged 2,838 cases, with losses amounting to ₹358 crore, which accounts for 76% of all cybercrime-related losses during that time frame.

In response to the growing complexity of cybercrimes, which now span phishing, data breaches, crypto scams, deepfakes, and more, the Centre for Cyber Crime Investigation Training and Research (CCITR) has intensified efforts to upskill law enforcement. Over 45,000 police officers, staff, and prosecutors have been trained in cybersecurity, digital forensics, and tech-based investigation tools. Additionally, targeted awareness campaigns are being ramped up in tech corridors like Whitefield and among the elderly, in collaboration with voluntary organisations. Police said these outreach initiatives are vital to prevention, especially as most crimes remain unreported or difficult to trace.

Despite the progress, the conviction rate remains low, with only 11 arrests made in 2,574 cases reported in the first quarter of 2025, revealing the persistent challenges in detection and prosecution.

'Wheeling no act of courage'

The Karnataka High Court has advised the State government and law enforcement agencies to enact necessary legal provisions and implement strict measures to control the dangerous activity of "wheeling" by two-wheeler riders.

Justice V Srishananda, in a single-judge bench, stated, "Legislature has to take into consideration that existing statutory provisions relating to reckless and negligent driving is hardly sufficient to curb the menace and therefore, to fill up the legislative vacuum, suitable and stringent provisions are to be incorporated by amending the Indian Penal Code and Motor Vehicles Act to complement each other."

The court noted that young motorcyclists incorrectly perceive wheeling as an act of courage, engaging in these dangerous stunts without understanding the serious risks involved.

The practice of wheeling, which initially occurred in urban areas with wide roads, has now spread to rural areas as well.

The court observed, "Wheeling not only results in endangering the life and safety of the rider or pillion rider but may as well pose a serious threat to the general public at large. Thus, the act of a few unscrupulous and unmindful youths in indulging the wheeling would definitely disturb the public order and tranquility."

The court noted that current provisions in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Indian Penal Code, 1860, are insufficient for authorities to control wheeling effectively, as reckless driving remains a bailable offence.

It advised, "Taking note of the galloping trend and alarming rise in such incidents, it is now the bounded duty of the State and its law enforcement agencies to legislate necessary legal provisions and to take stringent measures to suppress the perilous activity."

These recommendations emerged whilst dismissing a bail petition by Arbaz Khan, arrested under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and Indian Motor Vehicles Act.

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I, ADARSHA GOWDA BS S/o Shankar, R/at No: 11, 18th Cross, Bhuvaneshwarinagar, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023. Have changed to ADARSH GOWDA. vide Affdt. Dtd. 09.05.2025 Sworn Before Notary: Devaraja E. Bengaluru.

I, Vinod Kumar Jain S/o, Jugraj P Jain R/o #10, Rama Iyengar Road, V V Puram, Basavanagudi, Bangalore 560004 have changed my name to Vinod Kumar for all purposes.

I Bherulal Rangalal Sharma S/O, Ranglal Sharma R/o No 739 14th Main Road Kumaraswamy Layout 1st Stage J P Nagar Bengaluru - 560078 have changed my name to Bherulal Sharma.

I Rashmi M Mallapur D/O, Mohan R/o Mruthyunjaya Nagar 6th Main Ranebennur,haveri have changed my name to Rashmi Mallapur.

I, Shiraj, residing at No.432/A, High tension lane, Ilyas nagar, Bengaluru-560078 have changed my name to T Siraj, affidavit dt: 13.05.2025 before notary H.R. Panduranga, Bangalore.

I Savita Sharma W/O, Bherulal Sharma R/o No 739 14th Main Road Kumaraswamy Layout 1st Stage J P Nagar Bengaluru - 560078 have changed my name to Savitha Sharma.

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Ill will at ESI Hospital

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bangalore Mirror has written about the state of the ESI Hospital on September 24, 2019. We had brought to light the fact that the Group D employees were being made to clean vessels, chop vegetables, and wash clothes as the hospital is short-staffed, and has no laundry facility.

It has been six years since then. And we are sorry to say that a visit to the ESI Hospital now only goes to show that the brazen negligence and apathy of the authorities concerned persists.

At the main entrance of the hospital is a broken wheelchair with no footrest. For patients who are unable to walk, this wheelchair is of no solace as its rundown condition is enough to make them worry about their safety in it. And what is more broken is the fact that the authorities are completely indifferent to the needs of the hapless patients who need the wheelchair to reach their ward for treatment. As a makeshift arrangement, the hospital employees (most of them on contract basis) have tied a plastic bag to the wheelchair to enable the patients to rest their legs on it as the wheelchair has no footrest.

"No one is bothered about the basic amenities here. I have been visiting this hospital once a month for treatment. The broken wheelchair is a shame. And to think that some patients are forced to depend on it," said Prabhakar S, an employee enrolled under the ESI scheme.

Women inpatients at Ward No. 5 on the second floor of the hospital are the worst affected due to lack of facilities. They have to come down to the entrance on the ground floor to fetch drinking water as the RO plant has been defunct for the last few months. And the area around the RO plant has not even been cleaned for weeks it would seem. So it is safe to assume that hospital employees have forgotten about its existence.

"I got admitted to this hospital last week. I come from Halasuru. I have been struggling a lot due to lack of drinking water on the second floor. I have to go all the way to the ground floor to fetch drinking water," Haseena told BM.

Broken wheelchair at the entance of ESI Hospital, Indiranagar

Lakshmi, a patient who has come from Hosa Road also was admitted to ESI Hospital for treatment. She told BM that there is no safety for women who are compelled to fetch drinking water on the ground floor at night. "The authorities concerned must provide the hospital with basic amenities for the benefit of patients, especially women. What is the use of higher authorities if this hospital has no basic amenities?" she asked.

Meanwhile, Dr Manjula Devi, Medical Superintendent, ESI Hospital, Indiranagar, said that she has already sent a proposal for installing RO plants at the hospital. "I expected the higher authorities to sanction funds for the RO plants at all floors of the hospital before summer started but unfortunately we are yet to receive the funds for the RO plants. I hope the higher authorities do the needful without any delay," she said.

When asked about the condition of the broken wheelchair, she said she would look into the matter. "I will take measures to replace it with a new one," Dr Manjula Devi said.

HEALTH TIP: Ovarian cysts are fluid-filled sacs that form on or within an ovary

Swap your chips and biscuits for a handful of unsalted almonds, pistachios, pumpkin seeds, walnuts, or cashews

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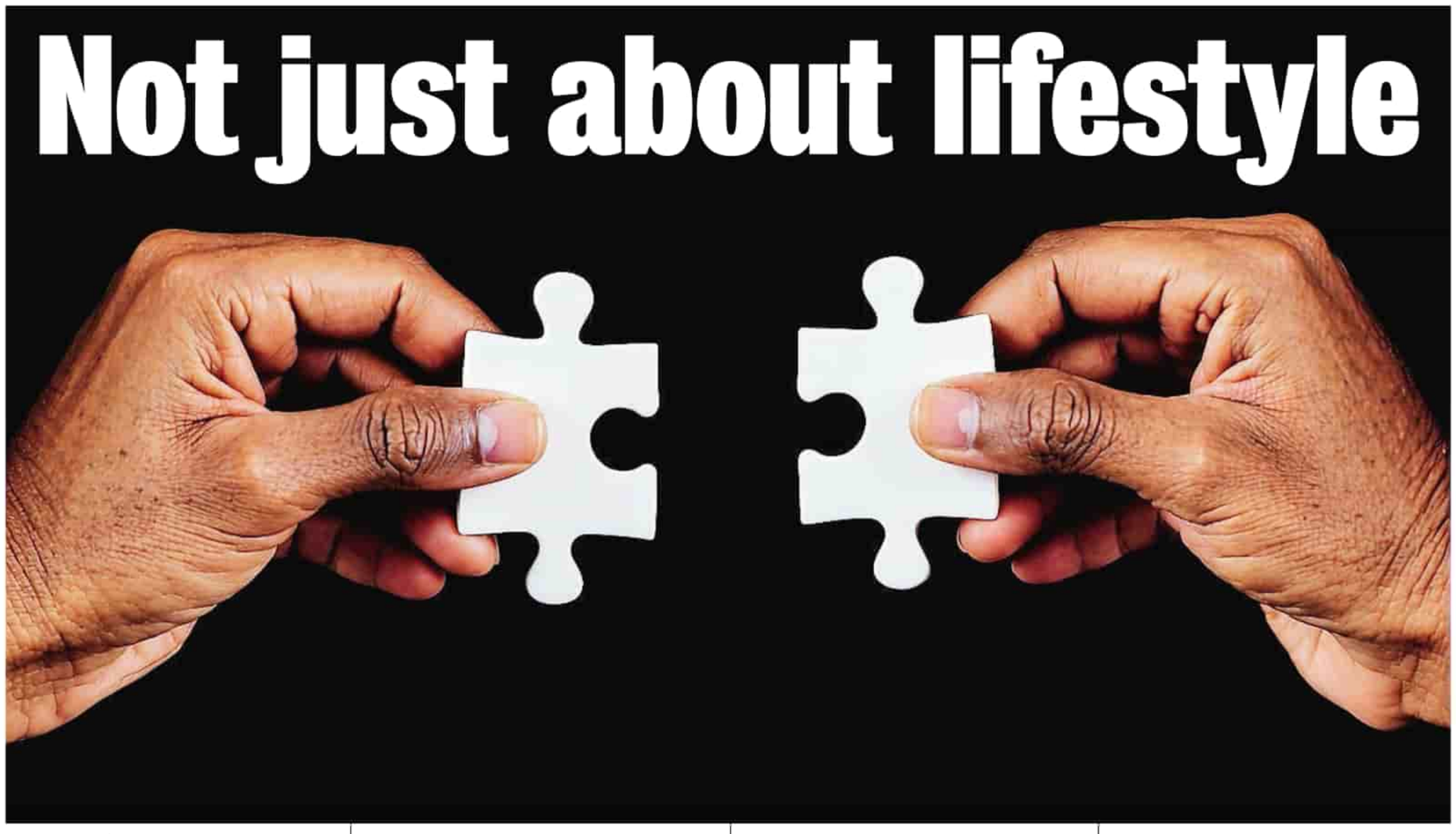
Not just about lifestyle



Narrow focus on behavioural changes to avert dementia risk can cause stigma, blame

As public awareness of dementia grows, so too does the appetite for prevention. Global headlines tout the benefits of exercise, diet, brain training and social activity in reducing dementia risk.

In recent years, medical journals have amplified this message to encourage people to take control of their cognitive futures through lifestyle change. Last year, The Lancet estimated up to 45% of dementia cases worldwide could theoretically be delayed or prevented by addressing modifiable risk factors.

These messages are undeniably hopeful. They suggest personal effort, combined with emerging scientific evidence, can help to overcome a disease long seen as inevitable.

But public health messaging that focuses too narrowly on behaviour may be misleading and potentially harmful, as we argue in The Lancet.

This can lead to a two-tiered system, where affluent people are praised for their proactive brain health, while marginalised groups face barriers to participation and are blamed for their perceived inaction.

What is dementia and what causes it?

Dementia is a neurocognitive disorder and describes conditions that affect memory, thinking and the ability to do everyday tasks. Alzheimer's disease is the most common type, but there are others such as vascular and Lewy body dementia.

It happens when brain cells become damaged and stop communicating properly. This can cause confusion, forgetfulness and changes in behaviour or mood.

Dementia is linked to some of our deepest cultural fears: the limits of autonomy, dependency on others, the stigma of being diagnosed and the unknown.

So, what increases your risk of dementia? Some risk factors can't be changed. Age is the biggest one. Family history and certain genes, such as APOE-e4, also raise risk.

But many risk factors are modifiable, which means we can do something about them. Obesity, high cholesterol and high blood pressure raise your risk. Low levels of exercise or education can also increase the chances of developing dementia.

The science behind prevention

The science of dementia prevention has evolved significantly over the past decade. Lifestyle trials, from Finland, France, Australia and the United States are exploring whether combinations of diet, physical activity, cognitive training and managing cardiovascular risk (high blood pressure, cholesterol, obesity and smoking) can reduce dementia risk.

The Finnish study, the most widely cited of these, demonstrated modest but meaningful cognitive benefits in older adults at risk for dementia after a two-year lifestyle intervention.

Its success has spurred a wave of similar studies globally (to date, more than 40 trials). Collectively, these trials provide a scientific foundation for an increasingly popular public health message: brain health tomorrow is linked to healthy behaviours today.

New possibilities for preventing dementia are certainly promising. However, the translation of these findings into broad public campaigns is where complexity, and ethical tension, emerges.

Dementia risk is related to socioeconomic disadvantage

Dementia risk is also determined by a complex array of extrinsic factors – conditions outside our control – that are unevenly distributed across society: air quality, ethnicity, gender, occupation, the built environment.

These factors influence not just if, but when, dementia might develop.

Dementia prevalence is disproportionately higher in communities facing social disadvantage partly because modifiable risk factors such as diabetes, obesity and low education are also more common in these areas.

But there's another layer: access. The same communities at greater risk often lack access to the very interventions meant to reduce that risk.

Low-income neighbourhoods may have fewer green spaces, safe walking paths, or affordable, healthy food. They also face higher levels of pollution, noise and chronic stress. All of which can damage brain health.

Not everyone can access the kinds of healthy lifestyles to counteract dementia risks. Telling people to eat a Mediterranean diet or join a gym may be a cold comfort for those without the money, time, services or mobility to do so.

Positioning dementia as something people can avoid also risks implying dementia is something individuals can fail to prevent. This could reinforce existing narratives which equate disease in later life to poor lifestyle choices rather than social inequity.

So how do we do better?

First, prevention messaging must be framed within a social and cultural context.

This means acknowledging and addressing barriers such as food insecurity, lack of green space, caregiver stress and health system distrust.

Messages must be co-created with communities, not imposed on them, and have a visual, motivating appeal.

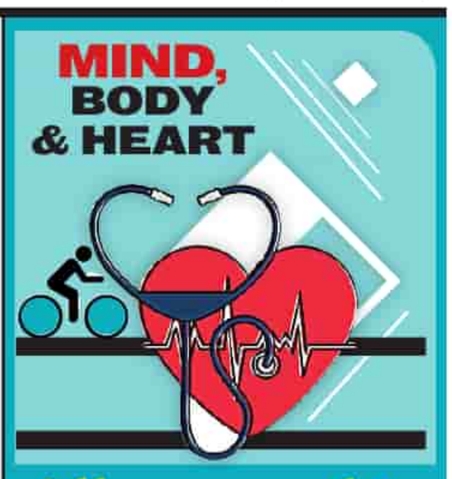
Second, we must shift from individualistic narratives to collective responsibility. Brain health should be supported through public infrastructure, equitable access to care, and culturally sensitive health promotion.

Prevention doesn't just happen in the home. It also happens in preschools, schools, shopping centres, clinics, parks and policy rooms.

Finally, we need to reframe success. Preventing dementia is a worthy goal, but so is ensuring dignity, inclusion and care for people who live with it. A just approach to brain health must do both.

The next generation of dementia messaging must be not only evidence-based, but also equity-focused. It should strive to educate without shaming, to empower without excluding, and to promote brain health in ways that honour the realities of ageing.

(By Joyce Siette, Western Sydney University and Gilbert Knaggs, University of Sydney, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Covid reinfections

May not cause long covid
Reinfections with SARS-CoV-2, the virus behind Covid-19, is less likely to cause long Covid -- a condition that affects at least 65 million people worldwide, according to a study.

What is long covid
Long Covid affects people after an infection caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The condition is not properly defined yet presents more than 200 symptoms. Long Covid risk and severity is known to compromise self-rated health, physical capacity, and cognitive function.

Symptoms
The preprint study, not peer-reviewed yet, showed that the risk of Long Covid was 6 per cent after reinfections from Covid virus compared to 15 per cent after the initial infection. Fatigue, shortness of breath, neurocognitive symptoms, post-exertional malaise, and smell or taste disturbances were the most reported common symptoms among people with long Covid. "Severe symptoms were reported 5 to 22 times more often by long Covid cases than by Covid controls, except for fever, cough, insomnia, anxiety, and depression (2.7 to 4.5 times)," said the Laval University in Quebec, Canada.

Risk percentage
The results showed that the risk of long Covid was two to three times higher after the initial infection (14.8 per cent). On the other hand, the risk of long Covid was 5.8 per cent after the first reinfection and 5.3 per cent after the second.

Omicron
Notably, the risk for long Covid was highest following infections with the ancestral strain and lowest after Omicron infections.
However, because Omicron caused such widespread transmission, that strain was associated with the most long-Covid cases.
"The study indicates that long Covid risk is roughly two-thirds lower following reinfection compared to first infection," the researchers said.

—IANS

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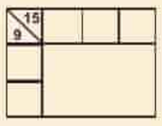
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

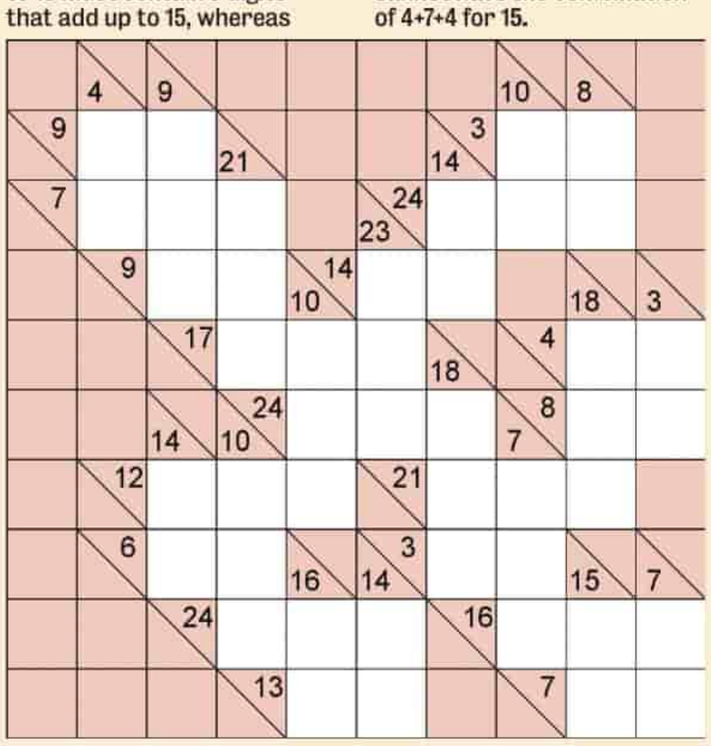
12{(15-(3(5^2))-5) / (3!+1)} = ?

Kakuro

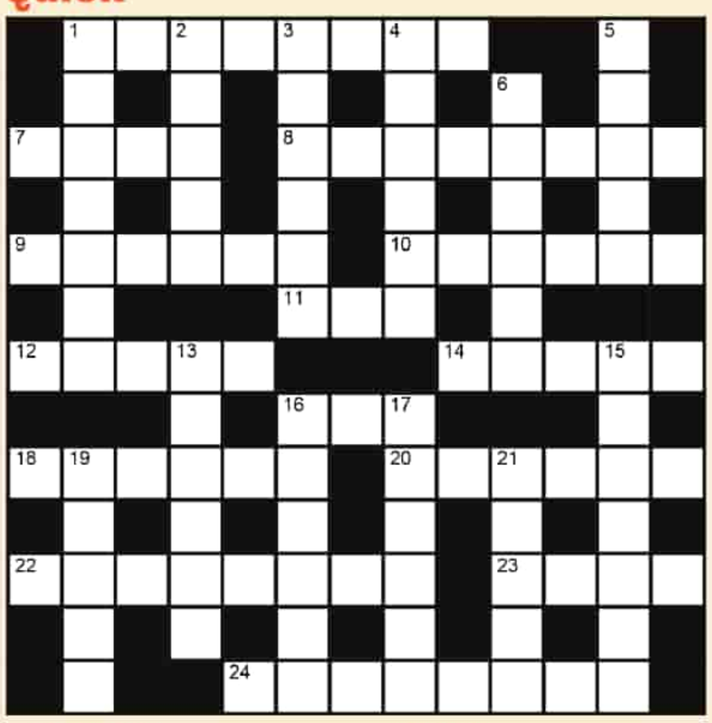
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Enhances (8)
7 Himalayan legend (4)
8 Spectacles supplier (8)
9 Bottle for water, wine or coffee? (6)
10 Worshipped or revered (6)
11 Immerse in water (3)
12 Dwarf planet (5)
14 Mrs. Anupam Kher? (5)
16 First sale of a stock (3)
18 Our city is located in this plateau (6)
20 Request the presence (6)
22 Extinct reptile (8)
23 South African currency (4)
24 Antarctic avians? (8)

DOWN

1 Look at (7)
2 Pulao accompaniment (5)
3 Prepared food (6)
4 Beguile or ensnare (6)
5 Fit with glass (5)
6 Marine creatures (6)
13 Powerful businessman (6)
15 Excursions (7)
16 Attack and overrun (6)
17 Derrick (3,3)
19 Force out (5)
21 Opera composer Giuseppe ____ (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS G

WLQH LP WLFH GZK. MUV DGXH KU JUZF DGZI KU FHHC LK PLOCWH GRI PKLWW DGXH OHGRLRB.

Linemaro

We're not socks. But I think we'd make a great pair

Mindchow

One may sometimes tell a lie, but the grimace that accompanies it tells the truth

Joke of the day

Democracy: In which you say what you like and do what you are told

Loop

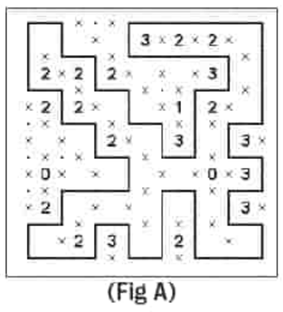
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

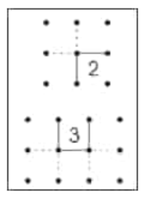
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

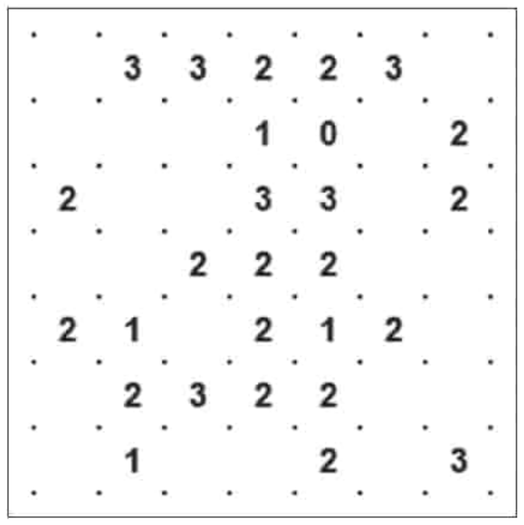
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



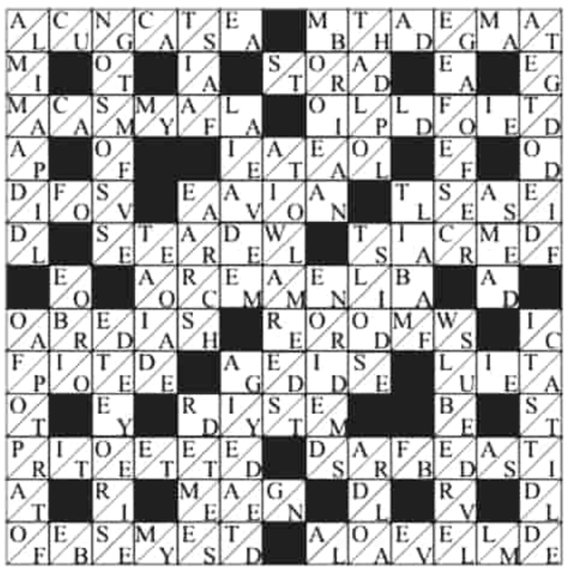
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



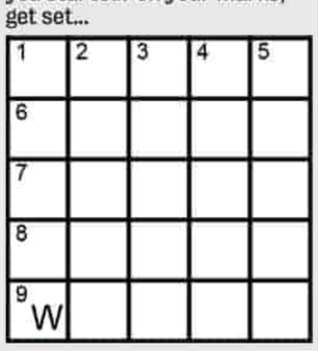
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

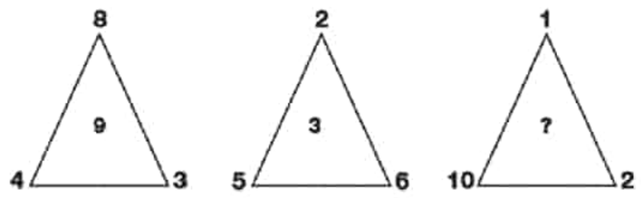
1 Dorsa; 6 Lex CE; 7 Least; 8 A I ere; 9 Writs

DOWN

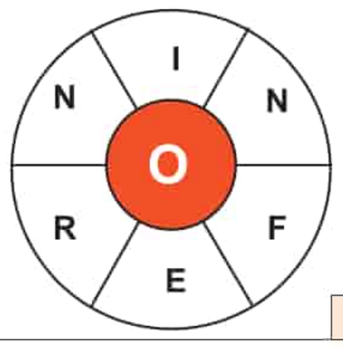
1 Wears; 2 To Rex; 3 I a car; 4 Slide; 5 Steel

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		5				2		
	1						3	
2			1	6	3			5
	2		6		1		9	
		6	3		9	4		
	3		2		5		7	
6			8	3	7			1
	8						2	
		3				9		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] = 8

2 4 6 8

Medium

[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] = 20

1 5 6 8

Hard

[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ] = 3

2 6 7 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Skirt is longer. 3. Hair is different. 4. Pillow is different. 5. Windowsill is lower. 6. Flower is reversed.

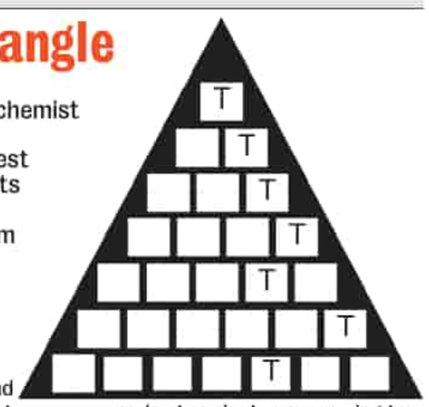
Riddler

Complete the words below using three consecutive letters in alphabetical order, e.g. _ _ A _ U S would be ABACUS.

1. _ _ F I _ Y,
2. _ A _ _ R N,
3. _ U _ S E _,

Alpha triangle

1 Tonne, abbr.
2 Astatine for the chemist
3 Posed
4 Historian's interest
5 Stage assignments
6 Meal
7 Powdered gypsum

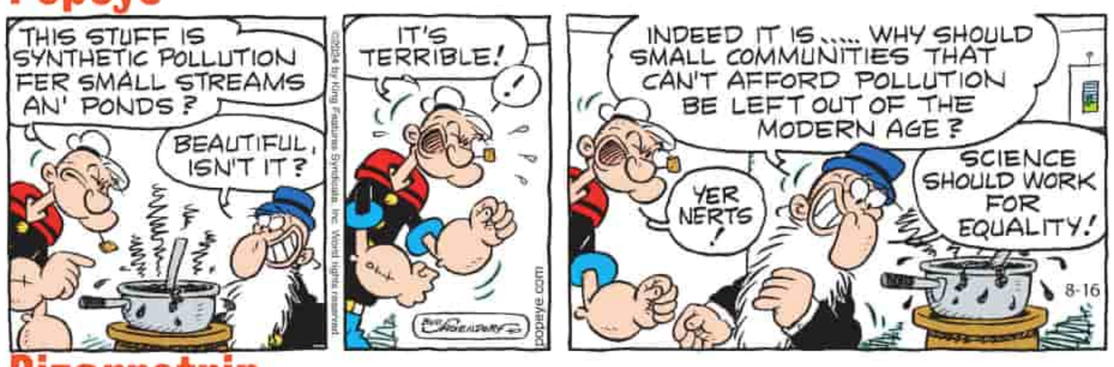


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


THIS STUFF IS SYNTHETIC POLLUTION FER SMALL STREAMS AN' PONDS?
BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?
IT'S TERRIBLE!
INDEED IT IS ..... WHY SHOULD SMALL COMMUNITIES THAT CAN'T AFFORD POLLUTION BE LEFT OUT OF THE MODERN AGE?
YER NERTS!
SCIENCE SHOULD WORK FOR EQUALITY!
8-16
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

THWAK!
OOF!!
SLOW YOUR ROLL, HEART. TRYING TO GET TO CLASS ON TIME OR SOMETHING? THAT'S NEW FOR YOU.
REALLY? HOW OFTEN AM I LATE TO CLASS?
IT MIGHT BE EASIER TO COUNT HOW MANY TIMES YOU'RE ON TIME TO CLASS.

Crankshaft

THE BATTLE OF THE BANDS HORRORS DIDN'T END AFTER THE EVENING STORMS!
YOU HAVEN'T SMELLED ANYTHING LIKE A HUNDRED INSTRUMENT CASES...
MILDEWING IN THE BAND ROOM LOCKERS OVER THANKSGIVING BREAK.
St. Spires
2-5

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you're likely to meet someone who could positively impact your business or career growth. Your destiny appears to favor you now, with previous losses possibly turning into profits. Financial stability is improving. Lovebirds may consider taking serious steps toward marriage, and singles might meet a potential soulmate.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Circumstances are under control today. With Jupiter's blessing, you may receive an important position or promotion at work. You could feel drawn toward spiritual or mythological subjects. Mental strength will boost your confidence and decision-making abilities. An overseas trip may also be in the planning stage.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may feel unhappy and sluggish today, which could hinder your productivity. Project delays might harm your professional reputation. Avoid adventure travel and reckless driving. Lovebirds may experience tension or even a breakup. Job seekers might face disappointment today.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You are likely to perform well at work today and enjoy a good relationship with your boss. New responsibilities or even a promotion may come your way. Chronic health issues could show improvement. Incentives or rewards for your efforts are likely, and disputes with siblings may be resolved. Job seekers may receive good news.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Your health is improving, and past ailments may now be cured. Good news from a close relative may brighten your day. You'll likely perform well at work, with colleagues offering strong support. Trust in your team will boost your standing. A positive development in a legal matter is also possible.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, your focus may be on your children's education and career. You could receive good news in that area. However, lovebirds are advised to be patient and understanding in their relationships. Investors should avoid risky ventures, as they may lead to losses. Practices like yoga, meditation, or mantra chanting can help bring mental clarity.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You may feel dissatisfied today, as your efforts might not yield expected results, leading to disappointment. Carefully review any documents before signing them. Investments in fixed assets could be on the horizon, but follow your intuition before proceeding. Overworking may disrupt your family life, and you might arrive late to social or family events.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You may be occupied with family functions and social gatherings, helping you expand your network. A short work-related trip may be planned. Disputes with siblings or friends could be resolved. Colleagues may support you in completing a difficult project. Maintain patience in all interactions to avoid misunderstandings.

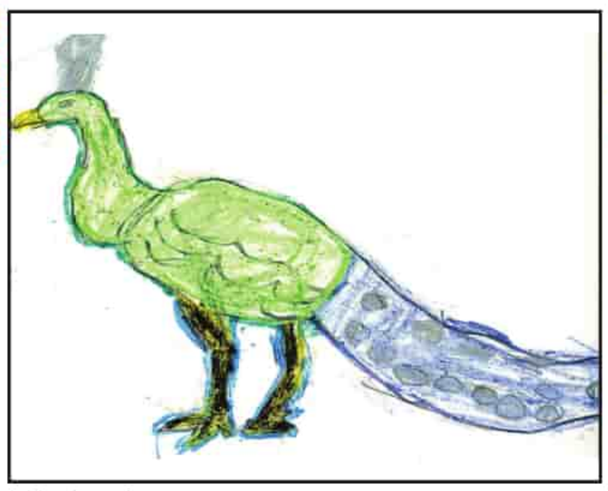
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You may implement new strategies in your family business, which will likely lead to future gains. Social and family gatherings may keep you busy. Spending on creative items or décor to renovate your home may improve your social status. Be cautious with issues related to teeth, ears, eyes, nose, and skin.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, the Moon's blessing brings happiness and positivity. You may enjoy your daily tasks more than usual. Strong willpower can help you make difficult but rewarding decisions. A short business trip might be beneficial. Support from colleagues will help you meet deadlines. Students may find themselves highly focused. Watch your diet to avoid stomach problems.

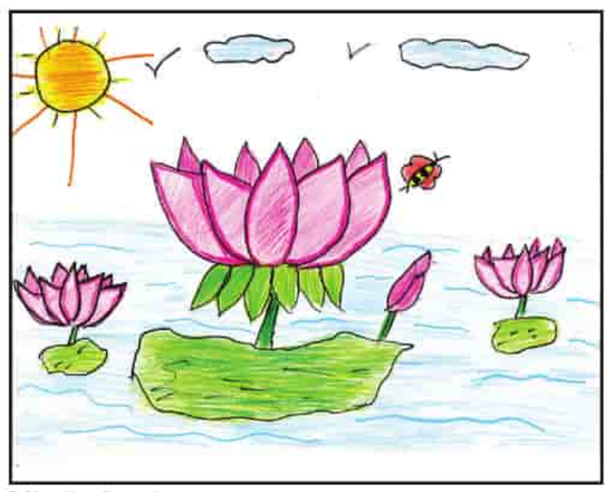
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
You may feel dull and mentally fatigued, possibly due to sleeplessness. Concerns over a family member's health may upset you. Unnecessary spending could impact your finances. Be alert, as hidden opponents or conspiracies might be at play. Stay cautious and vigilant.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Your previous investments may now yield profitable returns. Work may feel easier today, and obstacles are likely to fade. Financially, your situation will improve with the emergence of new income sources. Couples may receive joyful news regarding children. Success will come with minimal effort today.

KIDZONE



Ashiya, Bengaluru



R Mugdha, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
12 x 15{-12 ((75-5) / (7)))}
180-12 (70/7)
180-12x10
180-120 = 60

BULL'S EYE
fore, INFERNO, iron, neon, none

RIDDLER
1. Effigy,
2. Saturn &
3. Russet

FAST FIVE

R	O	A	D	S
E	X	C	E	L
A	E	R	I	E
S	T	A	L	E
W	R	I	S	T

STRIKE OUT

L	U	N	A	T	E	B	H	A	G	A	T			
I	O	I	T	R	A	A	E							
M	A	M	M	A	I	L	L	F	E	D				
P	O		E	T	A	L	F	D						
I	F	S	A	V	O	N	L	E	S	E				
D	S	T	R	E	W	T	I	R	E	D				
O		O	C	E	A	N	I	A	A					
O	B	E	A	H	R	O	O	M	S	C				
P	I	E	D	A	D	D	S	L	E	A				
O	Y	R	I	S	E	E	T							
R	I	O	T	E	D	S	A	F	E	S	T			
T	R	M	E	G	D	V	L							
O	B	E	Y	E	D	L	O	V	E	M	E			

QUICK

E	N	R	I	C	H	E	S							
Y	E	T	I		O	P	T	I	C	I	A	N		
B		T		K		R		T		Z				
C	A	R	A	F	E		A	D	O	R	E	D		
	L					D	I	P						
P	L	U	T	O		I	P	O		K	I	R	O	N
	U													
D	E	C	C	A	N		I		N	V	I	T	E	
V		O		V		L		E		I				
D	I	N	O	S	A	U	R		R	A	N	D		
C		N		D		I		G						
G														

MENSA PUZZLE
Life is like art. You have to work hard to keep it simple and still have meaning.

QUOTE UNCODE
11. In each triangle, the central value equals the sum of the 2 even numbers from the outside corners of the triangle minus the odd number

SUDOKU

3	6	5	7	9	8	2	1	4
8	1	7	5	2	4	6	3	9
2	4	9	1	6	3	7	8	5
5	2	4	6	7	1	8	9	3
1	7	6	3	8	9	4	5	2
9	3	8	2	4	5	1	7	6
6	9	2	8	3	7	5	4	1
4	8	1	9	5	6	3	2	7
7	5	3	4	1	2	9	6	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, At, Sat, Past, Parts, Repast, Plaster.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 2 + 4 − 6 = 8
Medium
5 + 8 + 1 + 6 = 20
Hard
9 + 7 + 2 \ 6 = 3

LOOP

KAKURO

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How to say Namaste – Actress Avneet Kaur shared a sweet moment with the global superstar Tom Cruise as the latter gears up for the release of his film 'Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning'. The actress took to her Instagram, and shared a post in which the two can be seen greeting each other with a graceful Namaste

BangaloreMirror | 12
Wednesday, May 14, 2025
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
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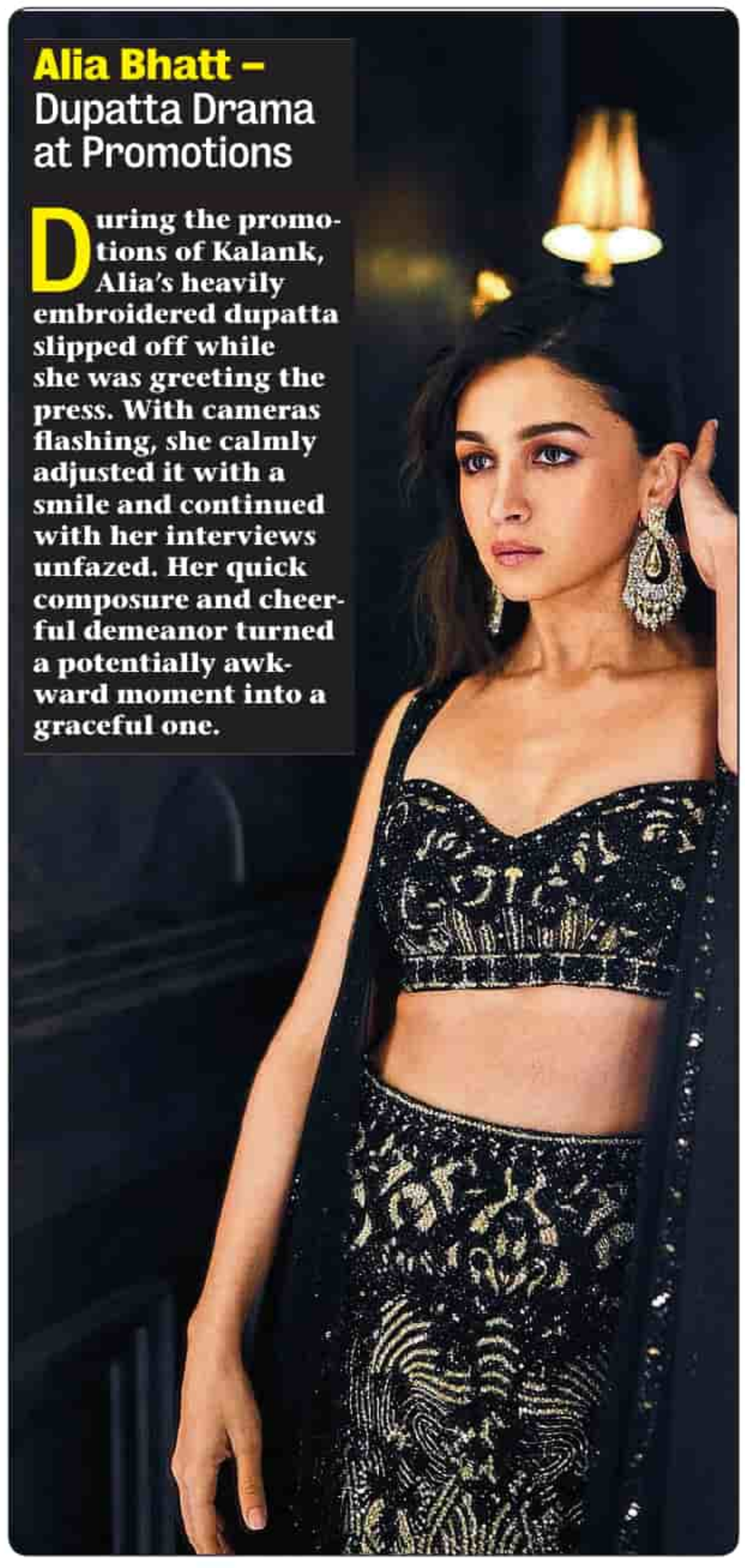
Entertainment Industry Promotion

Don't miss a beat

Wardrobe malfunctions B-Town actors handled like pros

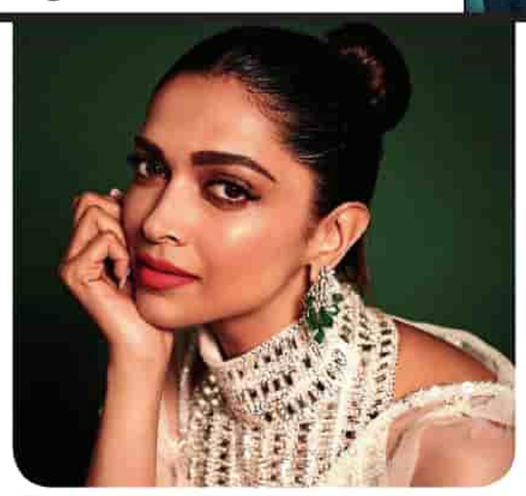
Kangana Ranaut – Strap Snap at a Fashion Event

Kangana once experienced a strap snap on her dress at a fashion event. Instead of rushing off or appearing embarrassed, she subtly held the outfit in place, walked confidently, and addressed the press before heading backstage. Her composed reaction was a perfect example of quick thinking under scrutiny.



Alia Bhatt – Dupatta Drama at Promotions

During the promotions of Kalank, Alia's heavily embroidered dupatta slipped off while she was greeting the press. With cameras flashing, she calmly adjusted it with a smile and continued with her interviews unfazed. Her quick composure and cheerful demeanor turned a potentially awkward moment into a graceful one.



Deepika Padukone – Gown Trouble at Cannes

At the Cannes Film Festival, Deepika wore a voluminous Ashi Studio gown that got caught in her heels as she walked the red carpet. Rather than panicking, she paused, smiled, and gracefully untangled herself—with poise that only enhanced her global star image. Her confident posture reminded everyone why she's a red carpet queen.

Shraddha Kapoor – Wardrobe Fix at Promotions

While attending an event for Baaghi, Shraddha's crop top shifted slightly during a photo session. She instantly adjusted it with a smile and continued posing like a true pro. Her calm energy kept the attention on her confidence, not the mishap.

Sushmita Sen – Saree Slip at Miss Universe Event

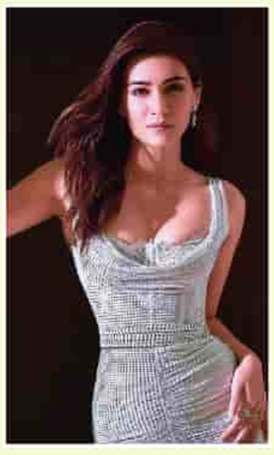
Even years after her Miss Universe win, Sushmita's elegance continues to shine. At an event, her saree's pleats loosened on stage. Without flinching, she wrapped the pallu around her and continued speaking, effortlessly managing the situation with her trademark charm.

Katrina Kaif – Slit Slip During Live Show

While performing live on stage, Katrina's thigh-high slit outfit rode up more than intended. She swiftly adjusted it mid-performance without missing a beat or breaking character. Her professionalism won cheers from the crowd and showed that even live mishaps couldn't shake her focus.

Kriti Sanon – Gown Slip During Photoshoot

During a photoshoot, Kriti's strapless gown slid slightly, but she held her poise, adjusted it gracefully, and continued the shoot. Later, the stylist revealed Kriti's quick reflexes saved them from a major retake. Her professionalism earned her team's praise. —ETimes



SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Love story

Many producers, directors, and actors from North Karnataka have bankrolled movies to showcase the tradition and the culture of people in their region. Now, Ravi Benne and Basavaraj Benne from Belagavi have joined the list, by bankrolling the film Surya, a love story. One of the movie's songs - Kempaana Gallada Hudugi - was unveiled at a function held on Monday. The song was unveiled by the team of the movie and no guest was called. The song was dedicated to all those who helped the movie turn out well.

It is said that the movie revolves around a young man who struggles to get united with his lover and marry her. Prashanth and Harshitha play the hero and the heroine. Basavaraj Benne, one of the producers, said he had to try hard to make this movie. "We are settled in Pune, but wanted to bankroll a Kannada movie as we want to encourage newcomers in Sandalwood through this movie. I appreciate director Sagar Das for writing a different script. The shooting of the movie is completed," said the producer. Sagar, who has worked as associate director, debuts as an independent director. "My friends introduced the producers to me. After I narrated the script, they agreed to bankroll the movie. We are planning to release the movie either in June or July," said Das.

Motion poster

The team of the film RP released a motion poster and a 4-minute teaser that introduces four characters of the movie, at MMB Legacy recently. Veteran actor Kari Subbu and Kannada Film Directors' Association president NRK Vishwanath graced the function.

Yuvaraj S debuts as producer, director, and a villain in Sandalwood with this movie that is being bankrolled under the KL Groups Films and Kabbalamma Creations banners. Raj Dev is the choreographer.

"Incidents that happened to my friend Raghavendra Prasad inspired me to write the script for this movie. RP, which is the short form of Raghavendra Prasad, is the title of this movie that

highlights the importance of preserving the environment. The movie will have all the elements for all audiences," said Yuvaraj. He said that Raghavendra Prasad G, Srinidhi, Laya Kokila, Nikhil R, and Dakshith Gowda will play roles in this movie. "The selection of the remaining cast is in progress. We have decided to start shooting in and around Adi Chunchanagiri in Mandya. I will reveal further details of the movie in the near future," he said. The movie is expected to be made in Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Hindi languages.